

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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[Back to Hinchey News](#)

THREE FIRE COMPANIES AWARDED FEMA GRANTS

BINGHAMTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has awarded grants to three Southern Tier fire companies under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program. The grants to Johnson City Fire Department (\$72,846), Apalachin Fire Department (\$45,972), and Village of Owego Fire Department (\$39,600) were among nearly 1200 awarded nationwide in the tenth and eleventh rounds of grants for fiscal year 2002.

"The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program continues to pay off for fire companies in the 26th Congressional District," said Hinchey. "We've put a lot of time and effort into funding the grant program and then making sure our companies are able to put together the best possible application. The grants announced today will help our firefighters to better meet the challenges they face and to maximize their safety."

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program was created by the 106th Congress and authorized for \$400 million over two years. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, Hinchey has strongly supported providing full funding for the program. Earlier this year, Hinchey sponsored a number of workshops across the 26th Congressional District to help fire departments with the grant application process.

Fire companies had the opportunity to apply for assistance in any of four categories: fire operations and firefighter safety, fire prevention, emergency medical services, and firefighting vehicles. Johnson City, Apalachin and Owego all applied under the fire operations and firefighter safety category. The FEMA grants represent 90 percent of the full cost of the companies' proposals.

After eleven rounds of Assistance to Firefighters Grants for fiscal year 2002, fire companies in New York's 26th Congressional District have been awarded \$1,145,991.